

Kill the Housing Bill

Campaign statement 7 May 2016

We oppose the Housing and Planning Bill because it means more insecurity, high rents and housing anxiety now and for generations. We welcome many of the amendments and concessions conceded due to opposition in the Lords, but remain extremely worried about the overall detrimental impact of this Bill, and cannot see any positive reason to support even an amended version.

We call on MPs and Lords who share our concerns to continue the opposition. Action to delay the legislation and expose the lack of consensus around it, will help in future challenges.

Many of the most potentially damaging measures in the Bill were not part of the Government's Manifesto. The Manifesto promise of more starter homes did not say this would be at the expense of existing and future council and housing association homes for rent.

This Bill is not a 'financial measure' and so the Parliament Act should not be used to obstruct legitimate opposition. It is a far-reaching attempt to reshape housing provision by undermining non-market alternatives and tenant rights. It is not a 'financial measure' unless every central or local government change is also to be classed in this way.

Already 69% of people in Britain say we are in a housing crisis [[details here](#)]. The Bill will make the crisis worse by: raising rents (through Pay to Stay tax and pushing more into private renting), ending secure tenancies, loss of council and housing association homes for rent, reducing Traveller sites, subsidised 'starter' homes for sale replacing really-affordable homes for rent, planning changes to speed up loss of public land and reduce obligations on developers to provide genuinely affordable homes, and failure to control rents or improve security for private renters.

We call for determined and continued opposition in and outside Parliament to stop this Bill.

Please see our [evidence to Lords here](#) and our Briefing on the Housing Bill here: killthehousingbill.wordpress.com.

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